

CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

Weekly Bulletin

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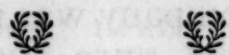
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GUY P. JONES
EDITOR

Chlorination in Imperial Valley.

The State Board of Health has recently undertaken a sanitary survey of Imperial Valley, in order to determine the best measures for the control of typhoid and other water-borne diseases that are prevalent in the valley. The sanitary engineers and inspectors engaged in making the survey recommend that chlorination plants be established in those towns of Imperial County which have municipal water systems, and these recommendations have been accepted by the officials of the towns concerned. Most of the water used, both for domestic purposes and for irrigation, in Imperial County, comes from the Colorado River, and it is believed that through the proper treatment of the contaminated water from this source the incidence of typhoid throughout the valley will be reduced greatly. California takes pride in its low typhoid mortality rate and a reduction in this rate for Imperial County will help to lower the typhoid mortality rate for the whole state.



Clean Forest Playgrounds.

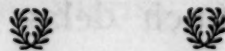
Forest officers in California will be deputized as sanitary inspectors of the State Board of Health to enforce state health laws in the national forests of California, according to the terms of an agreement entered into by District Forester Paul S. Reddington and the Secretary of the State Board of Health, Dr. Walter M. Dickie. Since most large streams in California have their headwaters in the national forests, many of which streams furnish drinking water for numerous towns and cities throughout the state, and since more than

1,500,000 people, most of them campers, visited these forests last year, the importance of sanitation in these reservations is paramount. Forest officers will have full authority to enforce the state health laws and they will constitute an important factor in keeping the mountain playgrounds clean, thereby conserving the health of the people of California.



Violates Quarantine: Fined.

A resident of Fresno County was last week found guilty of destroying two quarantine signs which were placed upon his residence, because of the presence of scarlet fever in his household. Deputy County Health Officer William Scales filed the complaint and Judge George B. Graham found the defendant guilty and fined him \$25. Wilful violators of quarantine laws and regulations should always be given swift punishment. The Fresno County health officer is to be commended for his prompt and effective action in this case.



Safeguarding Riverside Indians.

Dr. W. W. Roblee of Riverside, physician to the Sherman Institute, a government school for Indians located near Riverside, has made Schick tests upon 800 Indians attending this school and has immunized the nonimmune by the toxin-antitoxin method. This is a most commendable piece of work in the prevention of diphtheria. The use of the Schick test and the immunization of those who are nonimmune is of greatest value in orphan asylums and other institutions where children and young adults are in continuous residence.

Gold Dredging and Malaria.

The gold dredgers working in the lower foothills of the Sierra Nevadas turn the soil completely upside down. The rich top soil is finally deposited twenty or more feet below the surface and the hardpan and boulders are brought up to form a new surface. The dredgers depend upon water for their operation, and after they have completed their work large numbers of shallow pools of water are left, held by the impervious strata that have been brought near the surface. Large numbers of *Anopheles* mosquitoes have been found breeding in these pools. Since it is impossible to drain these places and since great difficulties would be encountered in oiling their surfaces, it is believed that the mosquito larvæ can be most easily destroyed by stocking these pools with top minnows. The State Board of Health, in cooperation with the International Health Board representative in California, intends to experiment during the coming season with this method of mosquito control on the lands destroyed by the gold dredgers.



Fire Control and Disease Control.

Many California newspapers are publishing pertinent material in the control of the communicable diseases and improvement of local public health conditions. The Watsonville *Pajaronian* recently made the following interesting comparison between the control of epidemics and the control of fires:

An epidemic of contagious diseases is a good deal like a fire. If you catch it in the early stages you can isolate it and put it out. The community has learned this lesson in the matter of fire. The alarm is given and responded to with all the speed of which firemen and mechanical equipment are capable. But in the matter of epidemics, there is in many places much delay in giving the alarm.

Some places now are sending out notices to all householders, requiring them to notify the health officers within twelve hours of any case or suspected case of contagious diseases, either in one's own family or outside.

Some families try to conceal the existence of contagious diseases, and often fail to call a physician until children have distributed infection among their mates. Every family in Watsonville should realize the peril created by such a course.



If health is wealth, why not have it?

Canners Use No Bad Tomatoes.

The 1921 tomato pack was comparatively light. Many of the canneries did not pack tomatoes at all. The canneries that did run, however, put up the best quality pack that has ever been known in the State of California. The delivery and sorting of tomatoes have been systematized to such an extent that the resultant products are exceedingly free from mold, bacteria and spores. In other words, rotten tomatoes and unfit material have been very carefully eliminated.

Inspectors of the State Board of Health have collected samples on an average of twice a week from practically all of the canneries, and our reports are based on the examination of these samples. Certain individual canneries show an average mold count less than ten for the entire season. A group of eleven canneries in the Santa Clara Valley show an average mold count on puree of 14 per cent; three other canneries in this same district had average mold counts of 39 per cent, 43 per cent and 52 per cent, respectively, bringing the average for the entire district up to 21 per cent.

The San Francisco district had an average mold count on puree of 19 per cent. Very few canneries operated in the Alameda County district, and one large cannery destroyed ninety-three cases of tomato sauce without court action. Their tomato products otherwise were not questioned.

In the Los Angeles district, four canneries showed an average mold count on puree of 20 per cent. One small cannery in the Los Angeles district showed an average mold count on tomato sauce of 60 per cent; another small cannery in the same district showed an average mold count on tomato paste of 70 per cent. The latter results were obtained from a large number of samples of the New Central Canning Company tomato paste. This company was recently prosecuted under the pure food act, found guilty and fined \$500, which is the maximum fine that can be imposed under the law.

Several thousand cases of catsup and puree manufactured in Illinois, Ohio and New York, which were shipped to California, were found adulterated and were destroyed in this state.

Taking the year's tomato pack as a whole, it may be considered as of most excellent quality, and this wonderful improvement during the past few years has been due to the cooperation between the canners and the State Board of Health. A few years ago, conditions were so bad that twenty to thirty can-

neries were prosecuted each year for packing tomato products which contained a large amount of rotten material. These canners lost approximately one million cans of tomato products each year, which were dumped as not conforming to the pure food law. This year only one cannery in the entire state has put up tomato products sufficiently bad to warrant prosecution. The results are due primarily to the rejection by the canneries of deliveries of tomatoes containing any appreciable amount of bad stock. Three years ago the canneries of this state were organized in six different districts and in each district the canners agreed among themselves and with the State Board of Health not to accept rotten tomatoes. They also agreed that if one canner should reject a lot of tomatoes that no other canner would accept the lot. Nearly every canner carried out this agreement faithfully, and the result was a great improvement in the quality of the tomato products packed. In addition to the rejection of bad tomatoes, the canners maintained a careful system of washing and sorting tomatoes as they entered the process.

As a result of this careful supervision, a grade of tomato products has been produced which, a few years ago, many of the canners thought was impossible to manufacture commercially.



New Organism Akin to Botulinus.

The existence, says the United States Public Health Service, in a recent report by Ida A. Bengtson has been demonstrated of an anærobic organism producing a soluble toxin which affects animals in a manner similar to that of the botulism organism but which fails to be neutralized by polyvalent botulinus antitoxin. Study of the organism, as found in the larvæ of the green fly *Lucilia cæsar* sent to the service, indicate that it differs markedly from the botulinus isolated in the United States, and possibly is more nearly related to the European type described by von Ermen-gem in 1912, though it differs from this in important respects. Tests on laboratory animals by inoculation and by feeding caused death in from 5 to 71 hours. The most striking pathological result was, as in botulism, the congestion of the blood vessels of the brain and meninges. Efforts are being made to produce an antitoxin. The suggestion that the organism of the disease causes limberneck in chickens has not yet been demonstrated.



Now I see the secret of the making of the best persons. It is to grow in the open air.—Walt Whitman.

Treatment of Carbon Monoxide Poisoning.

Carbon monoxide poisoning is one of the most widely distributed and most frequent of industrial accidents, says the United States Public Health Service. The gas is without color, odor or taste. It is an ever-present danger about blast and coke furnaces and foundries. It may be found in a building having a leaky furnace or chimney or a gas stove without flue connection, such as a tenement, tailor shop or boarding house. The exhaust gases of gasoline automobiles contain from 4 to 12 per cent of carbon monoxide, and in closed garages men are not infrequently found dead beside a running motor. A similar danger may arise from gasoline engines in launches. The gas is formed also in stoke rooms, in gun turrets on battle-ships, in petroleum refineries, and in the Leblanc soda process in cement and brick plants. In underground work it may appear as the result of shot firing, mine explosions, or mine fires, or in tunnels from automobile exhausts or from coal or oil burning locomotives.

Carbon monoxide exerts its extremely dangerous action on the body by displacing oxygen from its combination with hemoglobin, the coloring matter of the blood, which normally absorbs oxygen from the air in the lungs and delivers it to the different tissues of the body.

Oxygen will replace carbon monoxide in combination with hemoglobin whenever the proportion of oxygen in the lungs is overwhelmingly greater. Therefore:

1. Administer oxygen as quickly as possible, and in as pure form as is obtainable, preferably from a cylinder of oxygen through an inhaler mask.
2. Remove patient from atmosphere containing carbon monoxide.
3. If breathing is feeble, at once start artificial respiration by the prone posture method.
4. Keep the victim flat, quiet and warm.
5. Afterwards give plenty of rest.



The Inestimable Value of Education.

Arthur Brisbane says, in commenting upon a recent Rockefeller grant of two million dollars for educational purposes: "That is what counts. Those dollars will be working here long after they are spent and we are all dead. Ideas and truth are born of education and never die." Effective public health education today will save countless numbers of lives long after existing generations have gone.



The sires of future generations must make themselves the bondsmen of rules which curb their desires and curtail their personal liberties.—Wright.

MORBIDITY.**Influenza.**

Influenza dropped to 3289 reported cases last week. There were 5249 cases reported during the preceding week. It is believed that the outbreak will be practically over by the end of March.

Smallpox.

Fifty-seven cases of smallpox were reported last week. Of these 25 were in San Jose, Santa Clara and Santa Clara County. There were six cases each in Kern County and in San Francisco. Fresno County and Alameda County each reported four cases. Three cases were reported in Colton, San Bernardino County. The remaining cases were well scattered throughout the state.

Typhus Fever.

One case of typhus fever in a young adult employed by a railroad company was reported in Los Angeles. Investigations for the purpose of determining source of infection and other information are now under way.

Epidemic Encephalitis.

Three cases of epidemic encephalitis were reported in Los Angeles last week. No other cases of this disease were reported in the state.

Typhoid.

There were but six cases of typhoid in California last week. San Francisco and Los Angeles each reported two cases and Sacramento and Lassen County each reported one case.

Cerebrospinal Meningitis.

San Bernardino and San Jose each reported one case of this disease.

Poliomyelitis.

Not a single case of poliomyelitis was reported in California last week.

**LIST OF DISEASES REPORTABLE BY LAW.**

ANTHRAX	MEASLES
BERI-BERI	MUMPS
BOTULISM	OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM
CEREBROSPINAL MENINGITIS (Epidemic)	PARATYPHOID FEVER
CHICKENPOX	PELLAGRA
CHOLERA, ASIATIC	PLAGUE
DENGUE	PNEUMONIA
DIPHTHERIA	POLIOMYELITIS
DYSENTERY	RABIES
ENCEPHALITIS (Epidemic)	ROCKY MOUNTAIN SPOTTED (or Tick) FEVER
ERYSIPELAS	SCARLET FEVER
FLUKES	SMALLPOX
FOOD POISONING	SYPHILIS*
GERMAN MEASLES	TETANUS
GLANDERS	TRACHOMA
GONOCOCCUS INFECTION*	TUBERCULOSIS
HOOKWORM	TYPHOID FEVER
INFLUENZA	TYPHUS FEVER
LEPROSY	WHOOPING COUGH
MALARIA	YELLOW FEVER

*Reported by office number. Name and address not required.

QUARANTINABLE DISEASES.

CEREBROSPINAL MENINGITIS (Epidemic)	POLIOMYELITIS
CHOLERA, ASIATIC	SCARLET FEVER
DIPHTHERIA	SMALLPOX
ENCEPHALITIS (Epidemic)	TYPHOID FEVER
LEPROSY	TYPHUS FEVER
PLAGUE	YELLOW FEVER

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE REPORTS.

Disease	1922				1921			
	Week ending			Reports for week ending Mar. 18 received by Mar. 21	Week ending			Reports for week ending Mar. 19 received by Mar. 23
	Feb. 25	Mar. 4	Mar. 11		Feb. 26	Mar. 5	Mar. 12	
Anthrax.....	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Cerebrospinal meningitis.....	3	2	1	2	1	4	2	0
Chickenpox.....	171	176	182	174	305	252	265	208
Diphtheria.....	160	139	160	174	139	102	136	132
Dysentery (bacillary).....	0	0	0	1	1	2	1	0
Epidemic encephalitis.....	2	1	2	3	3	3	2	4
Gonorrhoea.....	60	118	97	49	61	109	78	73
Influenza.....	13,195	12,197	5,841	3,289	232	195	187	151
Leprosy.....	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	1
Malaria.....	2	0	1	2	3	3	1	3
Measles.....	24	23	23	15	1,031	813	880	550
Mumps.....	106	109	93	98	370	335	279	238
Pneumonia.....	232	300	310	206	115	101	100	82
Poliomyelitis.....	2	1	2	0	0	1	0	2
Scarlet fever.....	156	132	105	109	144	140	112	119
Smallpox.....	81	54	58	57	235	215	169	124
Syphilis.....	87	135	77	92	60	111	77	53
Tuberculosis.....	186	159	160	198	156	206	156	205
Typhus Fever.....	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Typhoid fever.....	8	14	13	6	4	11	9	12
Whooping cough.....	41	56	57	36	56	54	35	68